

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the last paragraph bridging page 1 and 2' of the specification with the following paragraph:

-- An important goal of cell culture is to be able to grow a wide variety of cells in vitro. The list of different cell types that can be grown in culture is extensive (see American Type Culture collection, <http://www.atcc.org>; European Collection of Cell Cultures, <http://www.eccc.org.uk>; Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, <http://www.dsmz.de>), includes representatives of most cell types, and is continually increasing as more and more culture conditions are discovered. Despite the steady progress in the field, the method of determining suitable culture conditions for new cell types remains totally empirical: growth conditions are almost always discovered by trial and error. The choice of starting point will often be based on what was previously used by others for similar cells, or even what is currently being used in the laboratory for different cells. Many times these will simply be completely inadequate, and a process of trial and error must begin anew. Even when new culture conditions are successful, it is worthwhile remembering that adaptations of previous protocols will have introduced a historical bias to the experiment. For instance, much of the early tissue culture experiments made extensive use of fibroblasts, and to this date most standard cell culture conditions favour growth of cells derived from the mesoderm (fibroblasts, endothelium, myoblasts). The development of selective growth media for epithelial and other cell types based on these conditions was a challenge. For some of these cell types it is now known that serum--a normal component of many culture media for mesodermal cells--actually inhibits growth. One aspect of the invention described herein is a method for developing suitable culture conditions which allow for the viability, proliferation or growth, and retention of the phenotype of particular cell types. --

Please replace the last full paragraph on p. 19 of the specification with the following paragraph:

-- Stem cells are described in detail in Stem Cells: Scientific Progress and Future Research Directions. Department of Health and Human Services. June 2001.
<http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/scireport.htm>. --